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The Sayings of Richard Stafford, a Prisoner in Bethlehem Hospital in Moorfields.

To the R E A D E R.

BEcause of the Interruption of a Prison, and the Difficulty of having Pen, Ink and Paper; and seeing that things here must be dispatch'd with Haste, (for which Reasons thou may'st excuse and supply the Errata's of the Printer, with the Rudeness of the Stile, and lesser Faults of mine own,) I was, as it were, necessitated to deliver the subsequent Matter in Plain and Distinct Sayings: Which (though without Method or Correction) yet may be somewhat useful to the bringing out, that others may come unto the Knowledge of the Truth.

1. **O**NE Reason why the present Governor hath such a great Multitude of People of all Sorts and Conditions to side with him, is to be imputed to the Corrupt Nature of Mankind; for as that is more Fond and Affectionate towards a *Whore* than a *Lawful Wife*, so the Multitude have been always more Zealous for, and Greater Admirers of an ** Usurper* than of a *Rightful King*.

**Now an Usurper signifies him who incroacheth upon another's Right.*

2. To those that say that I (*Richard Stafford*) do write *Seditious* or *Treasonable Books* or *Papers*, my answer is on this wise:

That Sedition is *Quieta Movere*, to Stir up, Raise and Occasion Wars and Fightings; and then this doth truly fall back upon all them, who three years ago did Invade this Nation (which before was in *Great Peace and Quietness*): And the same People have hereby occasioned Wars in the Neighboring Kingdoms, and on the Seas ever since. In which there has been more (I suppose) than an *Hundred thousand Mens Lives lost*, and the *End is not yet*. I do say and affirm, That it is a Contradiction and Absurdity for him to accomplish the *Peace and Security of Europe*, whose unreasonable and unwarrantable Ambition is one chief thing that hath upheld, and doth yet continue it in a State of War and Desolation. But to Reproach me for a *Pestilent Fellow and mover of Sedition*, because I publish Words which do declare, that these *Wars and Fightings* are *Unlawful* and *Unchristian* of both sides. And I (by the Knowledge given me) do shew the only *Good, True and Right way*, for a *Righteous Settlement* and a *Lasting Peace*, both in this *Island*, and also in the *Countries* round about: All this is to speak Lies and Falshood concerning me.

And whereas I do write the *Great things of the Law of God*, and only the words of his *Truth and Righteousness*, whosoever doth or shall Accuse or Charge me with **TREASON** herein, He or They shall be adjudged *Heady, High-minded, yea, and Traytors* against the God of Heaven, viz. Such as *would not have God reign over them*, for it is the utmost Strangeness and Monstrousness, and it proceeds from gross Ignorance, Unbelief, or else (what is yet worse) from the most Damnable Pride and Rebellion of Heart, that a parcel of (what are called) Reasonable People joyned together in a Community (who are but Creatures of five or six Foot long, and must dye severally notwithstanding all their power or Multitude) should not only be contented not to obey the Law of the Great God, who created all things, and is now nearer to every one of us than the Air we breath in.) But themselves, Forsooth! *not having the fear of God before their Eyes*, nor yet remembering that *they are but Men*, do call it *Treason* to have his Law set before them, and to be confronted unto their Doings and Actions. In this they are more Proud than *Lucifer, Son of the Morning*, for he would be like the most High, Isa. 14. 14. Yea, herein they are worse than *Antichrist the Man of Sin*, for He opposeth, and exalteth himself above all that is called God: But this is to oppose and exalt themselves above what is not only called, but is really God himself.

3. That is no *Deliverance* (notwithstanding Those call it so, who fish for and catch some-

what in these Troubled Waters) which hath involved us in a State of Killing and Slaying, and hath brought in all manner of Confusion, and every Evil work; and as yet Exposes us to Greater Danger than it first found us in.

4. The Consequence is both Fallacious and False, *That to bring in a Popish King, would be to bring in the Popish Religion*, as I have abundantly and particularly shewed in my printed Apology, and my Discourse on 2 Cor. 10. 4. where this Universal Surmise is so cleared, that any one who reads there, and can understand, may be also satisfied, and assent that it would be only so as I have there delivered. But because *we would not do evil, that good may come, we are slanderously reported*, as if we would Relapse Three Kingdoms into it, which now seem to be Retrieved from out of the Papacy; whereas all the Matter is this, There are a vast Multitude of *Temporizing Levites*, and *Men-pleasing Pastors* and *Teachers*, who have despised and falsified their former Oaths to keep their Places, *which is all their Living*; and both do *hide their Eyes* from the Breach of sundry of the Commandments of God to *please the King* that now is; for this Servile and *Men-pleasing Temper* is very incidental to those who have been *Consecrated and Ordained from the meanest of the People*; and therefore they will do any thing (whether it be Sin or not) to ingratiate themselves with the Chief Man of this Nation, and with the other *Rich and Mighty People*. There is besides a great Number of the *Lairy*, who (some for the Necessaries, and others for the Superfluities and *Pride of Life*) do *Steal*, and *Murther*, and *Swear falsely*, and *Oppress*; and say, *They are delivered to do these Abominations*, Jer. 7. 10. They must do them for the *Necessity of Government*; so that (for such a thing may be supposed, which neither was, and perhaps may not be) if King James had had the unanimous Love and Consent of the People, or should yet return with it, we may judge how far the very same Persons would have acted and complied with him in his Superstition and False Worship; or would yet. But notwithstanding their shameful Prevarications, all those who *live by Faith*, and do *obey and please God* rather than Man, these neither would, nor will yet comply with him in any Sin or Error. Blessed be God, though there is a vast Number of Hypocrites, Outward Worshippers, and Nominal Christians, yet there is a small *Remnant* of these still among us, and in these God both can and also will preserve his *Pure and Undeclined Religion*. By these only He is Glorified, but through their Breach of the Law *Dishonored* by all the others.

5. They have but little Faith and Dependence upon God, who will not do Righteous things, and trust our God with the Event of all; who will not obey, nor rely upon, nor give credence unto his Word, speaking on this wise, *Stand in awe and sin not, Offer the Sacrifices of Righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord*, Psal. 4. 4, 5. *In Righteousness shalt thou be established: Thou shalt be far from Oppression, for thou shalt not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near thee*, Isa. 54. 14.

6. I was for some time under a Misapprehension, how God would establish *Righteousness and Peace* on the Earth; as if it would be done by those who now have the outward power to proclaim War or treat of Peace; or by *Parliaments* or *Councils* after their manner of making *Laws, Acts or Statutes*. But now I do perceive that it is a wrong Method to make Application unto them in this Greatest Matter; for the good and perpetual things belonging to *Church or State* (as they are commonly named or subdivided) have not, nor yet will be done by Ecclesiastical Canons or Constitutions, nor by Temporal Laws. For as those of the *Priesthood* have dishonored God by their Errors and Corruption, so the Rich of the People (who had the most reason to serve and obey God) have moved him to *Jealousie* with their *Pride*, and with their *Gods* (or Idols of Men they have set over themselves) and *provoked him to anger with their Vanities*, Deut. 22. 20. so no great and good thing is to be expected from them. But yet it was necessary to warn and admonish them of the Transgression they have committed in the *Matter of King James*, and to exhort them to come unto Repentance and Retitution; which seeing that they do still despise and are Stubborn; They do *hate and cast the words of Instruction behind them*. Yea, They are *afraid to do it*; for the Devil hath this Method also, to continue People in Sin. So that upon the whole it may be thought, *That the thing is passed away, and gone from*

from them for all Eternity. By the words of Truth, Meekness and Righteousness, I would have healed this Nation, but she is not healed, and I have delivered mine own Soul: For it is a Nation that obeyeth not the Voice of the Word of the Lord. So That is likely to come upon them, what I surmised and greatly feared, when I first warned and testified against them on January 4. 1689, 90. That then they were in DANGER, but now it is to be extremely dreaded, *They shall actually die in their sins*, John 8. 24. *And shall utterly perish in their own Corruption*, 2 Pet. 2. 12. And if it be the Good Pleasure of our God to Restore his Anointed, He can do it without their Means or making them Instrumental. Though it were to be desired, for their good, that they would fear God, and come again into the way of his Commandments; That the very same Persons, who have not done Righteousness would Repent, and yet both learn, and also, do Righteousness. But if this be hid from their Eyes, and they shall not be accounted Worthy, Judge Me, O God, and plead my Cause against an Ungodly Nation---O send out thy Light and thy Truth, Psal. 43. 1, 3. And if that doth once shine as universally and openly (as the Sun in the Firmament) which hath hitherto been only lighted up in Corners, or but in a very few dark places: If that Truth may appear above-board, and be known and spread abroad to all Men; which hath hitherto been only spoken of in secret, and whispered in private Rooms; If all the good Thoughts of Heart may be uttered out aloud, audibly and distinctly, and People shall not be afraid (which they now conceal under the false name of Prudence) so to do, as all this will be, when God takes to himself the Great Power, and shall Reign: All this will not only bring the King back, but (what is infinitely more) it will also bring in Everlasting Righteousness, and settle Peace so long as the Moon endureth.

7. In that Speech made to the Parliament on October 22. 1691. there was that called (if I forget not my Logick) *Fallacia Dictionis*, or a Transversal of things, or rather a subtle concealing of what should also have been spoken of. For whereas it was said, That former Successes would be an Earnest of future ones; and the Lower House of Parliament did Echo back his words, *They did hope it would be an happy Presage of future Successes*. I would only just mention by the way, before I come to observe upon this Proposition, How much Evil and Inconvenience hath been in the World, when People become the Servants of Men: And they which are for the Good, Wealth, and Liberty of this Nation, have too often proved like Tools and Scaffolds to a Building, which serve only to erect it up to such a Greatness of Height, and then they are laid aside, and rendered useless for that Reign. This is a kind of Humane Remark, but *Insanum dicere verum quis vetat?* Men of Understanding may here judge what I say, without making a more plain and particular Application. But as to the thing which gave occasion unto this, I am one of those Witnesses who bring out Divine Truth, though the Persecution and Enmity of the World make me to suffer for it. That above-mentioned was spoken of as to the Reducing of Ireland; and I have in a printed half Sheet, entituled, *Additional Words*, &c. assigned the very Reason thereof. But may it not be here again retorted, That the French beating our Fleet at Sea the Year before this, with that Advantage they got over the Confederate Army this last Campaign, be an Earnest unto them of their future Successes also? And verily, if I did not believe, that the Time of the Promise draws near, and is even now at the doors, when God shall rebuke the company of Spear Men, and scatter the People that delight in War; and that he was just now bringing in the Universal Peace, for Ever and Ever, throughout all the Habitable Parts of the Earth; it would assuredly so happen with this Poor and Hypocritical Nation, as I have gathered from the Thirty seventh and Fifty second Chapter of Jeremiah. But amidst all, there is more to be understood from these following Scriptures of Truth, than from the Conjecture or Observation of all Men living, be they never so Holy or Knowing, viz. *The Race is not to the Swift, nor the Battle to the Strong, but Time and Chance happeneth to all*, Eccles. 9. 11. *There is a just Man which perisheth in his Righteousness, and there is a wicked Man that longeth his Life in his Wickedness*, Eccles. 7. 15. *There be just Men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the Wicked: Again, there be wicked Men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the Righteous*, Eccles. 8. 14. No Man knoweth either Love or Hatred (of God) by all that is before

before him. *All things happen alike to all ; there is one Event to the Righteous and to the Wicked ; to the Good, to the Clean and the Unclean ; to him that Sacrificeth, or to him that Sacrificeth not : As is the Good, so is the Sinner ; and he that sweareth, as he that sweareth an Oath, Eccles. 9. 1, 2.* For within these seven Years our selves have seen one Rebellion defeated and prove Abortive ; when another after that was Prosperous and Successful : As a certain Heathen Poet hath said, *Ille crucem sceleris pretium tulit, hic Diadema.*

8. Because I had so very much in my Writings cautioned the Incarnate Instruments of the Devil, of the Danger they would subject themselves unto, if they should cast me into Prison, Rev. 2. 10. for the *Word of God* ; I suppose to avoid that, and yet to hinder me from the further Ministration thereof, They according to Subtlety and Policy, did therefore throw me into this Hospital of Lunatics or Mad People, hoping thereby to avoid the Threatning and Judgment of God (which yet will be *executed according to Truth*) upon themselves for this doing to me his Servant and Messenger ; judging within themselves (but not aright) that this is not a Prison : And thereby they also think to take off from, and defeat those *Words of Truth and Soberness* (which I have already published, and trust in Almighty God I shall yet Publish) that they may seem as the Imaginations of a Distempered Brain, which are indeed the *True Sayings of God*, for they proceed forth from his *Word and Spirit*. This hath been the method of Satan of Old ; but as there is no more need, than only to discover and shew the Snare unto a prudent Man, that he may just see it : So all the *Devices of the Enemy*, when they are only made known and laid open, these do prove Ineffectual to the end for which he designs them. My visible Persecutors do also err in their own Hearts ; for not only the distinct Place called a Prison, but an House, Jer. 37. 15. or any other place where is Confinement, that is Prison. And when they sent me here upon a false Ground, by Judging me before they ever heard me, and knowing thoroughly what I did, or what I am, all which is contrary to the Law of God, John 7. 51. and of this Realm, Stat. 9. Hen. 3. c. 28 Ed. 3. All this is annexing Rebellion to their Sin, and Lying to their Rebellion ; yea, an *Adding Sin to Sin* ; which as to the future will heap more Punishment and Misery upon themselves : So in the mean while it is a *sign of a very bad cause, that must be propt up and supported by such Methods of Oppression and Injustice.*

9. So that those two Men (Sir William Forester and Mr. Forbes) who made and signed an Order for my Commitment here, on November 4. 1691. and ground it upon my being Distracted (whereas I am not Distracted) They do hereby *Love and make a Lie*, Rev. 22. 15. the Danger and Penalty whereof, is Non-admission and Exclusion from Heaven ; for saith the same Scripture, *All Liars shall have their part in the Lake which burneth with Fire and Brimstone : which is the second death, Rev. 21. 8.* As sure as this Gospel is True, (let this Word be made known unto them that they may look to themselves) Their own Carcasses shall burn a much longer time in Hell, than their hand-writing doth now, or shall yet further detain my Weak Body in Prison.

10. They do this to keep their Places (for which they will pay dear enough, as may be perceived from what is aforesaid) But it is either by the especial Command, or Knowledge and Approbation of Two that are Higher. And therefore I would propose this thing Simply and Abstractedly to the Reader. Whither the Chief Man (for Princeps signifies a Chief Man) who hath his Denomination from the Principality of Orange, and Mary the eldest Daughter of King James (for so I choose to name her, to put her more in mind, because she is so very apt to forget her Duty to her Father) are not more Mad themselves, in that they will not obey the Law of the Great God, than I am reputed Mad, only for setting this Law before them. Are they not Creatures ? And whereas they Imprison me only for thus doing, God, who knows all the Secrets and Thoughts of their Heart, will adjudge this to be worse, than if they now spoke out in a plain, outward audible Voice, *We will not obey God* : Which whatever they think (God knows it all one) or Practice, They refrain to speak out, least it should seem Odious and Detestable to all Godly People. Certain I am, They will in thus doing, accumulate more Guilt and Misery upon themselves, than they can now in this short Life, inflict Punishment upon me.

Consider of it, Take Advice, and speak your Minds.

F I N I S.